Leaners - Right & Mary

LEANERS. RIGHT AND WRONG.

Prov.3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not upon thine own understanding.

Intro. We are born leaners and remain so as long as we live. Every body subject to gravity is a leaner, and every mind has its own bent and is sibject to tendencies of various kinds. Tho you may stand uprightly on two legs, in a thousand and one ways you are compelled to lean on props of various kinds. The most so-called independent thinker has to have something upon which to base his opinions.

True independence is not a matter of getting rid of our supports that we may freely stand unaided, but is a matter of choosing those supports that will best hold us in proper position the most securely.

The writer of Proverbs definitely points out two kinds of leaners when he says,"Trust in the Lordwith all thine heart. and lean not upon thine own understanding." 3:5

I. That which leans upon itself depends upon its own balance.

If it leans away from the perpendicular, it is liable to fall of its own weight.

The reason why the leaning tower of Pisa does not fall is because it is light-headed.

Q. This is why some people are infidels. Relying on their own understanding they cannot see God. They are out of plumb,

Can a man by searching find out God? Not when his searching is made exclusively dependent upon his own understanding.

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork" is true only to minds ready to listen and see. He who leans on his own understanding may not hear nor see.

He is liable to be the athiest, the agnostic the unbeli

2.c

I.Q. God is not reasoned into recognition. He is accepted on faith and to such as has faith He reveals Himself.

Scientists do not lean on their own understanding: they repy upon the facts of the univer e as they discover them. Likewise, God is made known by means of faith thru the Word, thru conscience, thru his still small voice in many ways

As the scientist learns to know his facts, so one who learns to know God's will and God's understanding, will be led to know God Himself. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and le lean not upon thine own understanding."

2. The reason why worldly cares and troubles overcome so many people is because they lean upon their own understanding. In times of great crisis and loss and suffering one's own underatanding is a poor thing to lean upon. To do so is to weaken and totter and fall. At sust such a time you should lean upon God- upon his wisdom and love, upon his grace and p power. Find out what God's understanding is, what his probidences signify, what purposes he has with regard to you, and then lean upon Him. Trusting in God is the only way to be adequately poised and happy in this life of ours. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not ipon thine own understanding.

3. Some people rely upon their own understanding of what is right and wrong for the guidance of their personal conduct. They believe that if they do what they believe to be right and good they do not need any further salvation. They believe that their own good works and moral rectitude is sufficient salvation for them, but as a rule they fail in the end for a number of reasons. Their own judgment as to what is right and what is wrong is often determined by their prejudices and desires and circumscribed by an inadequate knowledge of right and wrong.

3. I.3.c They fall short of their own ideals and often have to give up trying because they have become victims of their own weaknesses.

When a high school boy I had a streak of relying upon my own morality and sense of right and wrong.

So model in conduct that the servant girl in our home who was a Catholic said that all I needed now was to be baptised by a priest.

My own father and pastor who were the strictist kind of moralists, being earnest Methodists said that all I needed was to give my heart to Jesus Christ, they could'nt ask for better conduct or better manners than what I was showing. But I fell short of my own ideals and fell victim of my own weakness. Only a humble surrender to God, thru faith in Jesus Christ saved me from utter ruin and failure. My understanding or right and wrong had to be revised. I had to acknoledge God's righteousness and seek to follow His ways before I recovered from my personal failure. " Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding" in all matters of personal conduct if you would stand upon a sure foundation.

4. With reference to all Christian work and Church activities, many Xns prove unsuccessful because they rely upon their own understandings and do not follow the teachings of the Master or the the ways of God. They acknowledge Christ to be the King of the K.of G. but act as his prime ministers and attempt to direct the affairs of of the kingdom according to their own ideas as to how they should be run.

We have read that in a certain city a bridge was to be built across a river. An old forgotten waterwain was found in the river which obstructed the work of building the bridge. It had to be removed. Special tracks were laid and the steam

4. I.4. engines of great powere pulled away, but but to no avail. Tug boats fastened to the main likewise tugged in vain. While all was confusion and the situaition looked helpless, a quiet man appeared who claimed that he could remove the old watermain from the river. He wa was given the contract. He brot two old mud-scows to the place and fastened them with strong iron chains to the old watermain. "What next are you going to do?" he was asked. Folding his arms and seating himself upon the bank of the river, he replied," My work is done." And there he sat and waited. And when the time came in and the the level of the water arose up came the old waterpipe and it was quickly removed.

God's strength flows into human life like the tide. Nothingcan resist His quiet ways. If you would succeed in Christian work, be it teaching in S.S or raising the budget of the church's needs, first of all rely upon God "It is not by might or by power, but by my Spirit," saith the Lord. There is only one way and that is to obey the command, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not upon thine own understanding."

Con.

Could trust her father.

Farmer returning home from town. Severe storm arose. Lightning flashed and thubder rolled as he neared his narrow valley. Thinking he heard someone back of him, he turned and saw his little girl following him. "Where are you going?" asked the father. "I am going wif you." replied his little girl. "Where am I going?" asked the father. "I dont know" answered the little one with unconcern. Then the father thot he heard God speak to him," Tho the way seem dark and threatening and you are tempest-tossed, cant you trust me as your child trusts you" And his faith was strengthened.

The little girl riding aline on the train. A passenger curious, asked her if she was not

to ride alone. "No, my ~~father~~ papa is the conductor of this train" and the little girl laughed.

Here we are thundering thru life at great speed, thru joy and grief, depression and loss, sickness and death, while all the time our Heavenly Father is the Conductor. If we would only trust him and ~~laugh~~.

The weight of a pendulum, if left to its own balance, would quickly fall, but attached to a rod controlled by the whole clock works, it swings back & forth and ticks off the seconds, the minutes, the hours & the days.

A person who relies solely upon his own industry is subject to the limitations of his own knowledge & personality and, sooner or later, will fall. But one who is linked to God who controls all the forces of the universe, may be swung back & forth & swayed to & fro in this topsy-turvy world of ours, but he will not fall — he will tick off the years of his life in time with the Infinite. "Trust in God with all thine heart